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TO SALLIE.
BY ROSINE.

The sunshine is bright'ning the meadow
and lea,
And it's loveliness wakens sweet memories
of thee,
For thy smile is as bright, and thy face
as fair,
As this glad summer day, and my warm
earnest prayer,
Is that the calm light, that illumines thy
face,
May ever be radiant and trusting as now.
Thy footsteps, as yet, have pressed naught
but flowers;
No songs but of gladness, have filled thy
glad hours;
No friends have proved false, no hopes
have been blighted;
No love that thou givest, has ever been
allied
Oh, would'st thou cast o'er thy future a
spell,
And forbid it to change one whom I love
so well.

But they'll come, the dark days, when
tear-drops will fall,
They will come, for, alas, they come to
us all;
But, darling, to meet them, a talisman
keep,
That will turn to a smile every tear that
you weep.
When the banner of love and hope is
unrolled,
The darkened life cloud shows an eling
of gold.

God bless thee, sweet child, as mine own
thou art dear,
Believe that the words, I am now writing
here,
Are true as thy own gentle self, and when
these
This life's fleeting day, with its sunshine
and roses,
May a crown from the heart of our Father
above,
Be placed on thy brow in the bright world
above.

A Thrilling Story.

THE FATAL CARD.

A Tragic Story of Early Times on
the Mississippi.

Some years ago the Mississippi river
was famous for its floating palaces, as
the large steamers playing between
New Orleans and the ports above were
called. Now the railroads have driven
nearly all the fine boats off the
river, and left the field to the freight
boats, whose accommodation for pas-
sengers are by no means palatial. The
former class of steamers were in many
respects delightful, but they never
ceased to be objects of dread to timid
people, for if the racing, which on that
stream was reduced to a system, did
not result in the loss of the boat, there
was sure to be one or more encounters
between the more lawless portion of
the travelers, in which pistol bullets
would fly rather too thick for the com-
fort of steady going people. The
cause for such disturbances was gener-
ally a quarrel over the gambling table.
The regulations of the boats usually
required that all such amusements
should be conducted in a saloon pro-
vided for that purpose in the officer's
cabin, situated on the hurricane deck,
but the sporting gentlemen were by no
means careful to observe this rule, and
the gaming was mostly carried on at
the dining table, in the main saloon on
the steamer, to the annoyance of two-
thirds on board. Many professional
gamblers used to make these boats
their home, traveling back and forth
with them, fleeing all who were fool-
ish and venal enough to fall into
their hands. So well, indeed, was the
system managed, that the various
members seemed to have their differ-
ent steamers marked out for them by
common consent, so that no one would
trespass upon the domain of the other.
Of course these men were warm friends
of the officers of the boats, who were
either too sincere in their friendship to
put a stop to the practice, or too much
afraid of the gamblers to care to pro-
voke a quarrel with them, for in those
days it was a common affair for such
men to resent any fancied insult with
a pistol shot. One of the most remark-
able men of this class was named
Daniel Sturdivant, a Frenchman, the
son of a broken down scion of nobility,
who had settled in New Orleans before
the transfer of Louisiana to the United
States. Sturdivant had been raised a
"gentleman" by his aristocratic father,
but on becoming of age, and finding
his fortunes very bad, had taken to
cards as a means to better them. His
success in this field was so great that
he was induced to continue it, until at
the time of which I write, he was one
of the most notorious gamblers between
St. Louis and New Orleans. He was
a man of fine personal appearance,
and of great physical strength, and
was also noted for his personal courage;
and as a gambler he was most expert
and successful. There were dark
stories of the deeds which he had com-

mitted while under the influence of
play and liquor, and it was said by
some that he had killed half a dozen
men in his lifetime. No one dared
to speak of these stories openly, for no
one cared to bring upon himself the
anger of such a man. There were few
who knew him that really cared to
play against him, but they learned that
a refusal to do so might involve them
in a quarrel with him, and rarely
declined an invitation. About twenty
years ago, the time of which I write,
he had attached himself to one of the
magnificent steamers playing between
New Orleans and Vicksburg, and had
publicly announced his determination
to shoot any man who encroached upon
his scene of operation. Of course this
left him undisputed possession of the
field, and he reaped a golden harvest
during the brief nine years he conducted
his operations there.

It was my lot at that time to be com-
pelled to make frequent trips between
New Orleans and Vicksburg, and I
preferred the steamer of which Sturdivant
had taken possession, inasmuch
as it was not only the most comfort-
able, but also the swiftest, and time
was of the utmost importance to me.
It was known that at times I carried
large sums of money, and I was al-
ways apprehensive lest Sturdivant
should ask me to play. I had made
up my mind to refuse him, and if he
attempted to draw me into a quarrel,
to shoot him without mercy, as I knew
the only chance of my life lay in get-
ting the advantage of him. Strange
to say, he did not make any such
proposition to me, and I gave him no
chance to do so. One night we had
started out from Vicksburg, and were
heading merrily down the river, when
Sturdivant came to the group which
had gathered around the stove. He
had been drinking, and was smoking
a fine cigar as he approached. All
made way for him. "Well, gentle-
men," he said in an unsteady tone,
"you seem to be terribly dull, who
wants to play for twenty dollars ante?"
There was no reply; all present seemed
to know the man, and no one volun-
teered to place himself in his clutches.

"Ugh!" he exclaimed with an expres-
sion of contempt, "afraid to try your luck
with Daniel Sturdivant, eh? Or maybe
you want a little coaxing; some of you
must play with me; I can't stand such
treatment. Come, let's see who it
shall be." He glanced around the
crowd as if to select his victim, and
for the first time I noticed the gaze of
one of the group fixed steadily upon
him. He was a stranger to me and
was dressed in plain home spun, and
his face was partially concealed by a
broad brimmed sombrero which was
drawn over it. He was a small but
powerfully made man, and in the de-
cided expression of his well shaped
head I read an unusual firmness and
intensity of purpose.

"Are you Daniel Sturdivant, the
gambler?" he asked in a calm tone,
without rising. Sturdivant flushed
darkly and gave the stranger a dark
glance. "Some persons call me so
behind my back," he said insolently,
but no one would care to apply that
term to me before my face." "Never-
theless," said the stranger I want an
answer—yes or no." "Well, then, I
am," said the gambler, angrily; "what
of it?" "Simply this," said the stran-
ger, "I have heard it said that you
claim to be the best card player in the
Southwest, and I have come two hun-
dred miles to prove you a liar."

Sturdivant strode forward a step or
two, and thrust his hand into his breast
as if to grasp a weapon.
"Stop," said the stranger; "If you
shoot me you will simply prove your-
self afraid of me. Take your seat at
the table and I will make my words
good."

There was something in the calm,
stern manner of the stranger that
seemed to render the gambler power-
less. He hesitated a moment, and
then said bullishly, "I never play
with a man whose face I cannot see."
"Never mind my face," said the
stranger, "if you are not afraid of los-
ing, you shall see it when I am done
with you."

But how do I know that you have
money for such sport?" persisted Stur-
divant; you look seedy enough, my
fine fellow."

"There," said the stranger, "I have
ten thousand dollars there; if you can
win it you shall do so."

With an oath Sturdivant placed him-
self at the table and bade his challenger
do likewise. Those of us who had list-

ened to this singular dialogue, now
gathered around the table, expecting
to see a scene of more than usual inter-
est. The stranger had not raised his
hat brim, and none of us had seen his
face; but we all felt from his general
air and manner that Daniel Sturdivant
had at last met his match. It did not
take long to show us that the stranger
was an unusually good player, and for
an hour or more the play went on in
silence. The stake grew high, and
the contest was marked with rare skill.
Sturdivant exerted himself as he had
never before, but in spite of all his ef-
forts he lost heavily, and by the expira-
tion of the time mentioned he had
lost about two thousand dollars. I no-
ticed the flush upon his cheek deep-
ened, a strange light came into his
eyes, and at last with an exclamation
of triumph he drew towards him the
heap of notes. "That was well done
said the stranger; "you are an expert
at cheating, but go on, I can beat you,
whether you play openly or dishonestly."

Sturdivant said nothing, but dealt
the cards again. The hand was played
and Sturdivant was about to seize the
stakes again, when the stranger laid
down a card and checked him.

The gambler uttered a sharp cry
and sat motionless with his eyes fixed
on the card, a worn and faded ace
of hearts, with a dark stain across the
face. Sturdivant's face worked con-
vulsively, as he gazed at it, and the
spectators gathered more closely around
the two, wondering at the strange
scene.

"In God's name who are you," asked
Sturdivant, with his eyes still fixed on
the card.

"Look at me," said the stranger,
quietly, and as if powerless to resist,
Sturdivant raised his eyes to the speak-
er. The stranger had raised his hat
and sat looking at the trembling man
with eyes that fairly blazed with fury.
Sturdivant uttered a groan and sank
back in his chair with his face white
and rigid. The stranger with one
sweep gathered the money from the
table, and thrust it into his bosom.

"The ace of hearts is an unlucky
card for you, Daniel Sturdivant," he
said coolly. "You played it once when
you thought it to your advantage.
Now, God help you, for that play is
ended."

As he spoke he raised a pistol which
we had not seen, and before we could
stop him aimed it deliberately at the
trembling man and fired. The gambler
fell heavily forward upon the table
across; and the bright blood streamed
over it, hiding the fatal card from
sight.

"Gentlemen," said the stranger, ris-
ing to his feet as we stood paralyzed
with horror at the dreadful scene, "that
man ruined my wife and tried to mur-
der me. I have been hunting him ten
years. He walked slowly by us down
the stairway to the lower deck, and
just then the steamer touched at a
landing, he sprang ashore and vanished
in the dark woods."

I never learned the history of the
mysterious affair, for the dead gambler
was beyond questioning, and I never
saw the stranger again; but I shall
not forget the impression made upon
me at that time.

A Ten Million Dollar Lump.

A correspondent, writing from Cali-
fornia, says that the Centennial fever
runs high. "Every body is talking
about it, and nearly every man you
meet is saving up his dimes for the trip.
We are going to show you what can be
done in the way of an exhibition of our
metallic product. Arrangements are
being made to produce during the
month of May \$1,000,000 of bullion
and to exhibit it in one grand pile.
It can be done easily and parties man-
aging the Consolidated Virginia and Cal-
ifornia Mines say they will turn out the
entire amount from these two mines,
completely throwing into the shade the
product of the far-famed Potosi Mines
of the olden times. Ten millions of
dollars in bars piled up will be a sight
for the multitude who have not seen
anything but paper money for the past
dozen years. Everybody will have
the California fever anew, and, by the
same token, it is not a had country
that can produce the 'loikes,' dug out
of the bowels of the earth in thirty
days. Unfortunately, it don't do some
of us much good, as the distribution is
not general. A few lucky fellows get
the lion's share."

Good Templar's Convention.

The Ohio county Convention I. O.
G. T. met with Newton Lodge No.
416, Feb 11th and 12th, at 10 o'clock,
and was called to order by the Presi-
dent, Benjamin Newton. After open-
ing ceremonies, the following appoint-
ments were made: Mrs. Josie Field,
W. V. P.; A. S. Higgs, Sec'y; Sam
Richeson, W. Chap; Edward Field,
W. G.; Joseph Turner, W. M. Com-
mittee on Credentials: Bros. Wm. Ed-
monson, S. J. Richeson and Miss Fam-
mie Newton. On Arrangements: B.
B. Burton, J. Beck, Mrs. Josie
Field and Miss Fannie Newton. On
State of the Order: A. S. Higgs,
Henry Griffin and H. Jarvis. Com-
mittee on Credentials made a partial
report as follows: Representing New-
ton Lodge No. 416, B. B. Burton, S.
J. Richeson, Jas. Fairfax, Henry Field;
Mt. Pleasant Lodge No. 886, W. Ed-
monson, H. H. Jarvis, J. F. Beck;
Hartford Lodge No. 12, Henry Griffin,
L. Barrett, Ellis Thomas. Commit-
tee on Credentials, by motion, were
continued. Election of officers for
next term in order, when the following
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